

**IDAHO BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2022, 9 A.M. MST
IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES
325 W. STATE ST., BOISE, ID**

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. MST on Friday, February 11, 2022. Participating were Chair Michael Strickland, Vice-Chair John Held, Commissioner Janet Franklin, Commissioner Dave Mecham, Commissioner Dawn Wittman, State Librarian Stephanie Bailey-White, Deputy State Librarian Dylan Baker, TBS Program Supervisor LeAnn Gelskey, Partnerships and Programs Supervisor Amelia Valasek, Administrative Services Manager Jamie Smith, E-Services Program Supervisor William Lamb, and recording the meeting was Office Specialist II Josie Bradford.

I. Call to Order

A. Introductions

Franklin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Introductions were made.

B. Agenda Review Approval – action item (board document 22-31)

Mecham/Held moved that the agenda for this meeting be approved.

Roll call vote: Strickland: aye; Mecham: aye; Franklin: aye; Held: aye; Wittman: aye
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Announcements: Bailey-White announced that the ICfL staff have been invited for a “meet and greet” with the board members at 10:30 a.m., and after that Kristina Taylor has been invited to do a presentation on the Libraries & Laundromats program.

II. Minutes Review / Approval

A. December 9, 2021, Minutes – action item (board document 22-30)

Held noticed that there were two minor corrections that needed to be made. On the final paragraph of the board documents, “his” needs to be changed to “he’s,” and on section V, part B, Bailey White needs a hyphen. Corrections will be made.

Mecham/Wittman moved that the minutes of the December 9, 2021, Board of Library Commissioners meeting be approved with corrections as distributed in Board Document 22-30.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment - none

IV. Legislation - Policies – Rules

A. Legislation

B. Policies

1. Grant Program Eligibility Requirements – action item (board document 22-32)

Bailey-White explained that the next four board documents all relate to rules that

had been approved by the board and the legislature. In April, the Division of Financial Management (DFM) sent Bailey-White an email that she either misread or missed. The email stated that the agency's rules would expire in June if actions were not taken to renew them. Bailey-White thought that the rules would not expire until 2023 when they agency was scheduled to do a rules review. However, that was not the case, and the rules did expire.

Bailey-White contacted the ICfL's deputy attorney general to discuss the ramifications of letting these rules expire. There are other self-governing agencies that don't have rules and instead have their policy-setting boards set policies. Rules hold more weight than policies. She also thinks the risk of a lawsuit to the ICfL and/or the state is very low. Bailey-White explained that all the rules could be changed to policies, but it could be an issue when the ICfL has its annual performance review, and she may need to explain why there are no rules. Mecham stated that the ICfL could simply explain that in the interest of reducing the rules, we changed them to policies. Held wanted to clarify that legislature oversees rules, and the agency oversees policy. Bailey-White replied that this is correct, and there are some advantages to having policies vs. rules since policies are more flexible. The grant eligibility requirements are a perfect example. The ICfL may get funding for the Digital Access for All Idahoans initiative. If this happens, subgrants may be offered to organizations outside of the library community, in which case, the ICfL would have to change the current rule/policy to allow agencies that are not affiliated with libraries to receive these grants, and it's easier to change a policy than a rule. Bailey-White stated that this could be a good opportunity for the ICfL to make a change, but if the board wants more time to think about it or would like to speak to our deputy attorney general, the topic can be tabled until the next meeting.

Mecham stated that this might make the policy manual longer. Bailey-White explained that all the rules would be taken out of the board handbook and replaced with the policies. The policies would also be posted on the ICfL website for transparency. Wittman asked if all the rules would become policies and Bailey-White stated that they would.

Held asked if the rules had been changed when they were rewritten as policies. Bailey-White stated that most of them are the same. However, there was a small change where something referred to rules, and Bailey-White changed the wording to "policy."

Held asked if we have guidelines to review policies. Bailey-White stated the board does not, but it is a good idea. Franklin asked if we could create guidelines to review the policies at the next board meeting. Wittman explained that in libraries it is a best practice to review policies annually, and to spread them out so it's not all at one meeting. Everyone agreed to add policy review to the next board agenda.

- Mecham/Held** moved that the Board adopt the Grant Program Eligibility Requirements policy as outlined in Board Document 22-32.
Motion carried unanimously
- 2. Library District Exemption – action item (board document 22-33)**
Held/Mecham moved that the Board adopt the Request for Exemption from the Criteria for a Proposed Library District Policy as outlined in Board Document 22-33.
Motion carried unanimously
- 3. Digital Repository Exemption – action item (board document 22-34)**
Wittman/Mecham moved that the Board adopt the Digital Repository of State Publications Exemption policy as outlined in Board Document 22-34.
Motion carried unanimously
- 4. Talking Book Service Governing Use – action item (board document 22-35)**
Held/Wittman moved that the Board adopt the Talking Book Service Governing Use policy as outlined in Board Document 22-35
Motion carried unanimously

C. Rules

V. Federal Fund

A. Finances

1. LSTA re-authorization – information item

Smith explained that the ICfL has not received the LSTA reauthorization dollar amounts since the U.S. Congress is still running on a concurrent resolution for their budget. Congress will have to act again by February 18 to pass a new budget or to continue to run on a concurrent budget. If a new budget is created, the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will calculate the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) allotment to states, and the ICfL should know the federal appropriation by mid-March. However, if another concurrent resolution is passed, IMLS will ask states what amount of funding they need to get through until the actual budget is passed. Since the ICfL grant cycle runs on a two-year period, and the end of the grant cycle has almost been reached, it shouldn't affect the agency negatively, but the ICfL will not know the full appropriation until later this spring.

2. LSTA grant applications received – information item (board document 22-36)

Bailey-White said this document lists all the continuing education (CE) grants and best practices grants awarded since the last board meeting. There are also two \$500 Best Practices grants that were awarded. There were quite a few CE grants and formal school reimbursements that came in, which is good since there

haven't been as many conferences or much travel due to things shifting to a virtual environment.

Franklin asked what libraries do with the Best Practices grants. Bailey-White explained that the Best Practices program was created last year, and it is a process for library board members and staff to go over and evaluate their policies, technology, collections, building, etc., and identify gaps. The library is then given the \$500 to address those gaps or areas of concern. This program is a good incentive for libraries to go through the process of self-evaluation and make improvements. The ICfL received fewer applications this year likely due to COVID and the challenges libraries have faced this past year. She hopes to see more applicants the next time it's offered. Libraries that have applied in the past may be allowed to apply again, and the ICfL is considering increasing the funding.

3. Unfinished Learning / ESSER Funds – information item (board document 22-37)

Bailey-White reported that last summer the ICfL was approached by the STEM Action Center, the Idaho Out of School Network, and the governor's office to discuss the federal funds coming into the state intended to address "unfinished" learning. Approximately \$440 million in ESSER funding will mostly be funneled through the State Department of Education to individual school districts. The State Board of Education is also receiving some of that funding and the ICfL requested \$750,000 for library summer reading support. Another proposal was made to the State Board of Education for \$500,000 to address out-of-school learning. At the next State Board of Education meeting, the ICfL will hear if the funding is approved. Fortunately, these funds do not need to be spent until 2024, so there is time to evaluate need and decide how to spend the funding appropriately. Mecham stated that it is good that there is some time to think about this. Bailey-White stated that most of the funds will go out as subgrants to public libraries to support summer learning and school libraries to help keep libraries open during the summer, support collections, and supplement summer reading programs. Wittman wanted to clarify that \$750,000 has been approved and the rest is still pending. Bailey-White stated that it has been approved, but it hasn't been deposited, and the rest of the funds are still up in the air.

B. Program – LSTA Five-Year Evaluation – information item (board document 22-38)

1. Bailey-White opened the discussion by asking the board if they had any questions about the report or if there were any items that really stood out. Franklin stated that the goals really stood out to her. She explained that most of the goals seem ongoing, and how are they evaluated when they keep evolving and changing? Mecham stated that it is hard to know how things will change, and because of the nature of what the ICfL does, it's hard to look at the goals and say, yes, this has been accomplished. Overall, he was really pleased that the report captures what the ICfL does to meet the needs of the Idaho library

community, and he is pleased with the agency's vision and plans.

Held thought the report shows the ICfL as a work in progress that is evolving and changing with the times to meet library's needs. Bailey-White stated that it was interesting to see how the report was conducted and to get feedback from focus groups and interviews. She was particularly pleased that the recommendations were good, and they reflect what the ICfL is working toward. Bailey-White explained that the next step is to complete the five-year LSTA strategic plan. Baker will be taking the lead on that, but she hopes that the focus will be on keeping students learning and adult earning and improving the health and well-being of Idahoans. The plan will address how the agency will support these initiatives.

Baker stated that it was fascinating to see the process of the LSTA evaluation. The evaluators really took their time interviewing staff, board members, and talking with the library community. He thought that it would have been nice to have seen more focus groups, but what they did capture was very valuable, and the recommendations were interesting. The next challenge will be addressing how the ICfL transitions to new programs and changes to accommodate new services.

Mecham asked if the review gave them a good picture of what is going on in Idaho libraries. Bailey-White replied that it did. The five-year evaluations were required of all 50 state libraries this year. A few things they noted is that Idaho does not have a lot of early education programs, and libraries are often one of the first places families go for early literary resources. One of the evaluators was very impressed with the workforce development plan and the summer internships grants, led by Partnerships and Programs Supervisor Amelia Valasek. She stated that she hasn't seen this offered in any other states, and it's a valuable program to help younger people experience the library world and see what an asset it is. Mecham agreed that it's important to expose people to the library profession at a young age. He also believes that this program is a natural feeder into other internships, and the ICfL should consider expanding the internship program.

Bailey-White stated that the next step is that a draft report will be presented to the Library Development (LD) team at their March meeting. Team members will have the opportunity to ask questions, seek verification, and review the report. It will then move out of draft status and be submitted to IMLS and used as a guide to help the ICfL develop the five-year strategic plan. Bailey-White thanked the commissioners for going over the report.

2. Welcoming Libraries Grant Report – information item (board document 22-39)

Bailey-White stated that Project Coordinator Kristina Taylor created a longer Welcoming Libraries grant report, and it's a great opportunity for the board to see how this program works. This is a fairly new addition to the ICfL, and this year the funding was supplemented with a donation from the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, which allowed the ICfL to increase the grant awards from \$500 to \$1,000.

Held asked what a diversity audit is. Bailey-White stated that it's a checklist that libraries go over to help analyze the collection to ensure different voices, cultures, races, nationalities, genders, different representations of authors, etc. are included. There is a method to doing a diversity audit that usually includes some training.

Wittman asked if this program helps librarians address censorship issues. Bailey-White stated that the opposite may be true. Earlier this year, the Welcoming Libraries grant program was targeted by the Idaho Freedom Foundation. An editorial implied that the ICfL had gone too far and was encouraging libraries to remove "Little House on the Prairie" books. This year, book challenges are up 60% nationally, and the ICfL is addressing this by incorporating more professional development opportunities that address censorship issues. If libraries have a solid collection development policy in place, they are better prepared to deal with challenges, but book challenges are still stressful to library staff. This week, the ICfL is hosting two "For Your Reconsideration" statewide chats that are intended to help library staff deal with censorship issues.

Franklin asked how diverse the staff of the libraries are in the state and if staff are representative of the communities they serve. Bailey-White stated that the short answer is no. Ismael Mendoza Medina was hired as our bilingual/bicultural project coordinator, and hopefully his work, and other efforts, will encourage the library community be more representative of certain communities such as the Latinx community, but it's likely to remain a challenge in this job market.

Franklin asked how getting diverse summer interns can be addressed. Bailey-White stated that the Public Library Association (PLA) has a diversity summer internship program that the ICfL's program used as a model, but it's always a challenge to broaden the scope and find candidates who will meet the library's needs. Valasek stated that it is a learning process. She has overseen the program for the last two years, and she was a recipient of the program when she was the director of the Cascade Public Library. One of the things the ICfL does to encourage this is to hold an orientation with grantees, and part of that orientation involves encouraging grantees to recruit diverse interns. However, the trick is going to be figuring out how to reach people who wouldn't normally

apply for these internships and how libraries can be intentional about recruiting diverse candidates.

VI. General, Miscellaneous Revenue, & Library Services Improvement Funds

A. Finances

1. LSIF funds received – action item (board document 22-40)

Bailey-White reported that the STEM Action Center provided an additional \$20,000 to support the STEM Curiosity Collection. Funds will be used to purchase nonfiction STEM e-books and e-audio titles that will be made accessible through the Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA). There are books that are currently sitting in a shopping cart and ready to go, the ICfL just needs approval to spend the funds.

Held/Wittman moved that the expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the Library Services Improvement Fund be approved for implementation of projects outlined in Board Document 22-40.

2. Budget hearing report – information item

Bailey-White was happy that Strickland was able to attend the 2022 JFAC budget hearing as board chair. Bailey-White asked him to share his impressions. Strickland stated that he was really pleased with the meeting. Bailey-White did a good job of presenting the needs of Idaho libraries and explaining what the ICfL does to support them. Most of the questions from legislators were straightforward. There was very little negativity, most of the comments were positive, and Strickland doesn't see any big clouds that may be working against the agency.

Strickland continued to say that the fiscal climate is good this year, and the ICfL has done a good job of using one-time appropriations to build infrastructure. The ICfL continues to evolve and what is happening in libraries is getting recognized. Overall, Strickland was very optimistic with the meeting, and the agency should be able to move forward with its plans for the year.

Bailey-White stated that these sessions are all recorded, and board members are welcome to watch the sessions. This year, there were a lot of questions on the enhancements the ICfL had asked for. Bailey-White spent time going through each enhancement and explaining what they were, and the legislators seemed engaged and interested in what the ICfL is doing. Representative Nate asked Bailey-White what assurances were being made that the ICfL was not funding material or programs that were objectionable. Bailey-White stated that all libraries are locally governed, and libraries make their own decisions about their collections and programs. One representative pointed out that the University of Idaho was also getting federal funds for digital literacy efforts. Bailey-White stated that she and Baker are going to meet with university staff to see what they are doing and to make sure that the initiatives do not overlap.

Bailey-White stated that she will send a link to the JFAC recording to the board. She is hopeful that the budget will not be too far off from the governor's recommendations.

VII. Operations Report – information item

A. Management Team members – information item (board document 22-41)

Bailey-White reported that she is currently serving on the Western States Broadband Alliance. This alliance consists of the state broadband offices, state regional optical networks, higher education, tribal liaisons, the State Board of Education, and state librarians from nine different states. She said this is a good group to network with. Bailey-White, Baker, and Lamb are also meeting independently with representatives from the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) to discuss how the organizations can partner to improve broadband capacity for Idaho public libraries. One of the things the group is working on is trying to figure out how to partner with judicial systems to extend broadband between county courthouses and libraries.

Bailey-White also reported that she is planning on attending the first in-person Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meeting in Portland on March 22 in conjunction with the Public Library Association conference March 23-25, which she is also planning on attending.

Baker announced that he has been serving as the Deputy State Librarian for a month now, and a lot has happened in that time. Two of the ICfL library consultants have left the agency, and right now Baker and Bailey-White have had to step in to answer questions from public library directors and trustees. Baker and other management team members are looking at how they can realign the library consultant position so they can have one consultant who serves the entire state. The library consultant position is currently open, and it will close on February 20.

Baker also reported that there has been a rise in book challenges lately, and the ICfL is trying to address this issue by hosting webinars and providing resources to the library community to help them better address these challenges. Youth Services Consultant Jennifer Redford led the Library Development staff in putting together a blog post titled "For your Reconsideration" with information and resources for Idaho libraries dealing with the recent rise in organized challenges to library materials. Emerging Trends Consultant Deana Brown and School Library Consultant Jeannie Standal are also facilitating two virtual sessions for library staff seeking a space to discuss these materials challenges with their peers.

Baker said he will be attending the Digital Inclusion Summit. This summit, which Emerging Trends Consultant Deana Brown took the lead on organizing, will include 14 presenters and two keynote speakers. This will be a good lead-up to the Digital Access for All Idahoans plan that is in the works.

Baker, Lamb, and Brown also plan to attend the National Digital Inclusion Alliance Net Inclusion Conference in Portland next week. This will help prepare them for the Digital Inclusion Summit and give them ideas for the Digital Access plan. During the conference, Baker has been asked to speak on a panel about how state offices are working on digital inclusion efforts.

Smith reported that the budget is in good shape to finish out FY22. The Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) Committee presented to JFAC, and they recommended a 3% salary structure increase and a \$1.25 (about 4%) average merit portion to each agency. However, this still must be approved by the full legislature and governor.

LUMA, the new interface resource planning platform that will replace Enterprise, is on track to go into use this year, and there will be a lot of training on Luma this spring. There has been a lot of progress being made on the program, and the fiscal resources are on track to transition July 1. The DHR modernization process is also going into effect, and HR functions are on schedule to transition to Luma at the beginning of 2023.

Smith also reported that Talela Florco will be joining the ICfL as the new Grants and Contracts Officer, and the ICfL is happy to have her on board. Finally, she was happy to report that the two new ADA-compliant restrooms are complete, and if the board is interested in seeing them, Smith would be happy to give them a tour.

Gelskey reported that the Talking Book Service (TBS) is staying the course, and her team has been busy getting books out to their patrons. Gelskey has been working with Public Information Officer Donna Eggers on a “Never Stop Reading!” campaign to promote Talking Books across the state. They are looking into the possibility of using electronic billboards and TV advertising. The TBS team is also on track to host their third virtual book club. This time Zoom will be offered to increase participation. Gelskey stated that one of the challenges of hosting this book club has been finding a book that everyone likes. Gelskey also wanted to give a shout out to Sheila Winther, the interim volunteer coordinator, and Sue Vap, the interim studio support technician, who have been helping her out with recording and volunteers.

Lamb reported that he is working on transitioning into his new role as the E-services Program Supervisor. He has also been busy helping libraries connect to the E-rate program. There have been a lot of successes this year, and he has been able to assist multiple libraries with substantially increasing their internet connections. Lamb continues to work on digital inclusion efforts and is working with Baker to determine how to best utilize state and federal funding to address these initiatives. Lamb also reported that the IDEA collection continues to grow. There are now 23,000 unique titles and 43,000 checkouts.

Valasek reported that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants are now in maintenance mode, and she is happy with how libraries are utilizing those funds. Valasek will be transitioning the oversight of the Let's Talk About It (LTAI) program to Gelskey to free up some of her time to work on other more pressing projects. However, she is still working on the LTAI virtual spring series, and she is very excited it. For this series, three authors have been invited for lunch-hour presentations to talk about their books in the context of the LTAI theme in which they are featured. Valasek invited board members to join these virtual sessions.

Valasek is also busy working with an internal team on the Digital Access for All Idahoans state plan. She is currently developing the stakeholders' assessment and working on identifying who the stakeholders are and reaching out to them for interviews and feedback. Valasek is also taking over the telehealth initiative. The ICfL just launched the Telehealth Trailblazers grant through the Blue Cross Foundation. Valasek stated that the ICfL is still waiting on the JFAC budget before addressing some of the other telehealth initiatives, which include subgrants and the potential to partner with the Department of Health and Welfare to get telehealth pods in libraries and capital improvement grants to local libraries.

Bailey-White also reported that the ICfL just heard yesterday that the agency will be getting its three-year audit starting in March.

B. Personnel – information item (board document 22-42)

Bailey-White explained that there has been quite a bit of turnover in personnel since the last board meeting. However, the ICfL is on a good path to get the vacant positions filled, and it has allowed the agency to do an internal assessment of each position and determine if it is needed and how it can be changed to best meet the agency's needs and mission. The ICfL will recruit for the e-resources library consultant in early March. The position was reclassified since the previous position required a master's degree, but the compensation was not enough for the requirements of the job. The new position will be responsible for many of the ICfL e-resources. The added responsibilities include taking the lead on the IDEA collection development and managing the databases and digital repository.

The ICfL is also reassessing the volunteer coordinator position to address recording studio needs. One of the budget line items is a request to move some federal operating funds to personnel to retain the bilingual bicultural project coordinator. Bailey-White stated that this has been a challenging time for personnel. However, there is a strong management team in place, and the agency is currently in a better position to move forward.

Held stated that this report and the one presented at the last meeting reflects close to a 20% turnover rate, which is a tremendous amount of turnover for any agency, and this

is slightly troubling. Bailey-White stated that there were some past issues with staff and that created a ripple effect on the agency. She said she would feel more comfortable going into more detail in an executive session. Mecham asked for an executive session to be added to the agenda for the next meeting so they can continue to discuss personnel issues.

There was a motion to break at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

Process for State Librarian evaluation – discussion

Franklin explained that last year it was decided that the Chair and Vice-Chair should be responsible for conducting the State Librarian evaluation, and Bailey-White would send her self-evaluation to them. The board all agreed that this was a good process. This year, the evaluation will be in April. Bailey-White asked the board to review exhibit G in the board handbook that covers the evaluation process. She explained that the board will have to write a cover letter that needs to be presented to the governor's office. The commissioners all agreed that it would be beneficial for all of them to all see Bailey-White's self-evaluation. She stated that she would send her self-evaluation to all the commissioners in March, so they had time to review it before the next meeting. Held stated that last year there was a bit of a glitch with the letters that went to the governor's office. There were two letters instead of one, and one of the letters said more that it should have about the position. Bailey-White said there is a sample letter in the handbook and this year commissioners can use that as a guide.

VIII. Old Business -- board tour plans and possible meeting date change - discussion

There was some discussion about when the board tour would take place in April. After double checking the dates, it was determined that April 7 and April 8 would be best. Wittman asked what a board tour looked like. Bailey-White explained that usually the commissioners arrived on Wednesday night, then they get an early start in the morning with a tour of the local libraries. Bailey-White explained that in the past this event has been a highlight of the year for commissioners. It's a great opportunity for them to get out and meet the library community. Strickland asked which libraries the commissioners would visit this year. Baker explained that the draft schedule has the board meeting at the College of Western Idaho, but they will also visit the Homedale Library, Meridian Unbound, Kuna, a school library in Caldwell, the Lizard Butte Library, and possibly some academic libraries on Friday afternoon.

Bailey-White stated that the board usually has dinner together on Thursday night. During the last board tour, the Latah County Board was invited to join, and it was a nice way to get to know them. This year, Bailey-White is considering inviting some legislators. Bailey-White is looking forward to the tour and getting out into the library community again. The board has not seen the new Nampa Public Library so it may be a good opportunity to tour there. Held explained that it will also be good for library staff

to see the board and see how they support the library community.

Bailey-White stated that she will send out a draft itinerary. Public Information Officer Donna Eggers will also put together some background information on each library.

IX. New Business -- Idaho Libraries & Laundromats – information item (board document 22-43)

Bailey-White introduced Youth Services Projects Coordinator Kristina Taylor to the board. Taylor has been with the ICfL for 10 years, and she was invited to this meeting to present the Libraries & Laundromats program.

Taylor explained that the Libraries & Laundromats program is a national initiative that began on the east coast. The idea behind it is to reach families who may not make it into the library by meeting them where they are. Laundromats are a good option because they are often visited by lower-income families, and it's a good opportunity to take advantages of the wait time associated with laundromats. The ICfL tried to roll out this program in 2019; however, the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 slowed the roll-out and significantly changed the program activities.

Despite the challenges brought about by COVID, the ICfL was still able to find some creative ways to implement the program. They began by setting up storywalks (picture books displayed in order on the walls) in the laundromats. They were also able to set up literacy centers with bilingual/bicultural books. Libraries have not been able to present storytimes yet, but the whole program is designed to show the impact of having a librarian involved who is conducting storytimes on a regular basis and demonstrating literacy skills to the families, who can then go home and use those skills with their children. Taylor is hopeful that in the next year or so, they will be able to add the live storytime component to the program.

One of the requirements of Laundromats & Literacy is that the centers and libraries both need to commit to the program for at least two years. There is also a requirement that the library must help maintain the center and keep it organized. Taylor stated that this is a great program for the rural and smaller libraries. It helps them build community partnerships, and it does not take a lot of staff time to implement. One issue that Taylor has come up against with this program is that several libraries want to participate but don't have laundry centers in their towns. However, they are finding creative ways around this. One library was considering using a cattle auction site, and another in Lapwai wants to set up a literacy center in a local health clinic. Wittman stated that she would be interested in going along with Taylor to help get the literacy center set up in Lapwai.

Held asked if there was a laundromat in Firth. Mecham stated that there is, and it could be a good program for them to incorporate. Taylor explained that this year, all the funds

that were appropriated for the program have been spent, but there is a list of interested libraries, and hopefully they can be added to the program next year. Franklin asked if the ICfL contacts the laundromats to get the program set up or if the laundromats contact the ICfL. Taylor explained the local libraries are responsible for reaching out the laundry centers to see if they are interested in hosting a program. Taylor also explained that initially the ICfL provides the books for these programs and they get replacement books each month for a year. Options for replacing books after the first year are still being determined. Wittman asked about loss, and Taylor explained that it does happen. Sometimes people who are using the literacy centers think the books are free, so they take them. New signage has seemed to help prevent this. Taylor explained that if commissioners wanted to see the studies behind the program or learn more about the program, all the information is on the ICfL website.

Taylor stated that she is also available to answer any questions about the Welcoming Libraries grants. Bailey-White asked Taylor to explain the professional development component of the grants. Taylor explained that training must be done during the first six to eight weeks of the grant period. Grantees can choose their training from a menu of items or their own choosing, but it must relate to an equity, diversity, and inclusion topic. Grant funds can be spent on the training, and the ICfL has a few trainings that are available that meet the requirements of the grant. Bailey-White asked if libraries can reapply each year for the grant, and Taylor stated that they can. The grants are small, but they did increase from \$500 to \$1,000 this year.

X. Strategic Issues

B. Topic(s) for next meeting – discussion

Bailey-White explained that there is plenty of room on the next board agenda for topics, and she is hopeful that the ICfL budget will be passed by the next meeting. Mecham stated that he would like a plan to review policies added as an agenda topic. Franklin stated that she would like staff to talk about the current drop in reading scores due to COVID. Bailey-White stated that if they have more information about the additional summer learning funds, that will also be added as a topic.

XI. Meeting Evaluation / Adjournment

Bailey-White asked if there was anything that would improve board meetings. Wittman thanked the ICfL for inviting staff to discuss their programs and that Taylor's presentation really filled her in on what the ICfL is doing for the library community.

Held moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 8, at 9 a.m. MDT, in conjunction with the board tour on April 7 and April 8.